

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area NRCA Management Plan

2. Name of applicant:

WADNR Natural Areas Program

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Brooke Derr
Environmental Planner, Natural Areas Program
WADNR – Asset Management & Protection Division
PO Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 2, 2002

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WADNR

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Final approval, in the form of a signature from the Commissioner of Public Lands, of the proposal is anticipated in early spring 2003. Implementation will begin after the plan is approved.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This proposal was developed during a comprehensive planning process that involved several planning efforts related to the Loomis State Forest. Related planning efforts include:

- 1) Two "Watershed Analyses including the South Fork Toats Coulee and Sinlahekin WAUs. The two watersheds overlap with the south block of the site.
- 2) The development of the Chopaka NAP Management Plan. It was completed in June 2002.
- 3) Renewing the Loomis Forest permit ranges (grazing).
- 4) Modifying the Lynx Management plan. It includes a four phased review as follows:
 - a) USFWS - DNR take avoidance agreement for Lynx was completed in July 2002.
 - b) Incorporation of Modified Lynx Plan into the Loomis NRCA Management Plan. This SEPA process for the draft Loomis NRCA Plan will complete phase 2 of modifying the 1996 Lynx Habitat Management Plan (Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan Mitigated DNS, Environmental Checklist answer question A.6, issued May 8, 2002, SEPA File No. 02-050801).
 - c) Incorporation of Modified Lynx Plan into the Loomis Forest Landscape Plan.
 - d) Final review of the Modified Lynx Management Plan by WADFW.

Further activity will include monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the lynx habitat management plan. Chapter 6 of the Lynx Plan outlines how DNR will carry out adaptive management activities.

- 6) Incorporating changes into the 1996 Loomis Forest Landscape Plan. The process includes a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued with the 1996 Loomis Forest Landscape Plan.
- 7) Development of Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAP) as required by Forest Practice Regulations by 2010.

The documents listed above are planning documents to be guide land management activities. Specific activities will be reviewed to determine if a SEPA environmental review process is required. DNR plans & policies guide management activities that may occur on the forested lands covered by this proposal.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Information was used from the following resources in the development of the proposal:

- 1.) WDFW, Priority Species Habitat Management Recommendations.
- 2.) WDFW, 1993 Status of the North American Lynx, (*Lynx canadensis*) in Washington.
- 3.) WDFW, 1993 Primary Distribution of lynx in Washington.
- 4.) The basis for forest management in many areas under the Lynx Habitat Management Plan was evaluated during the development of the department's Loomis State Forest Landscape Management Plan 1996. It was analyzed during the Landscape Plan SEPA process. Refer to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, June 1996. The EIS documents are incorporated by reference. In addition, the Forest Resource Plan, July 1992, Policies 20, 22, and 23 require management of habitats important to the lynx.
- 5.) Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring, Loomis State Forest, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 Annual Reports, March 2000.

Continued...

- 6.) Loomis State Forest Lynx Habitats and Late Successional Forest Units, DNR 2000. This study and information was not completed due to the creation of the NRCA. The issue of Late Successional Forest is incorporated through reference in the management plan and will likely be resolved with the update of the Loomis Landscape Plan in 2003.
- 7.) WDFW, Washington Lynx Update, April 1999
- 8.) WDFW, Lynx Recovery Plan, June, 2001
- 9.) Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan for DNR Managed Lands Phase 1, July 2002

Question 7 lists a number of projects that have information relating to this proposal including scoping documents for the SEIS prepared February 22, 2002.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Washington DNR Lynx Habitat Plan is in process of being updated in four phases the first of which resulted in creating the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan. This SEPA environmental review process will complete phase 2; incorporating information from the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan into this proposal, the Loomis NRCA Management Plan. Phase 3 of the lynx update will occur with incorporating information from the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan into the Loomis State Forest Plan update and EIS. Phase 4 (approximately June 2003) will occur with a final review and update of the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan that will incorporate current ongoing but yet to be completed lynx habitat research.

DNR is in the process of developing a draft SEIS to review changes to the Loomis Forest Landscape Plan (to follow this environmental review process). This proposal, the Loomis NRCA Management Plan, will be included in the changes so that the NRCA management goals and objectives are acknowledged in the Loomis Landscape Plan. Ecological values associated with this proposal may contribute to the overarching goals and objectives of the Loomis Forest Landscape Plan.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

None for this proposal.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The Loomis NRCA Management Plan fulfills requirements outlined in the Loomis Forest Settlement Agreement and First Memorandum of Clarification, and the NRCA Act (RCW 79.71). The site includes two parcels, the north block (approximately 14,000 acres) and the south block (approximately 10,700 acres), together they include approximately 24,700 acres. The management plan was developed to coordinate conservation of the property's natural ecological values with traditional agricultural management (grazing) and public use activities (hiking, recreational equestrian use, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing and hunting).

Management Goals include:

- Coordinate conservation of natural ecological values with outdoor environmental education and traditional public use.
- Maintain the parcels in the most natural condition possible.
- Protect examples of native ecosystems, habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals, geologic and scenic areas, and cultural resources.
- Operate grazing practices in compliance with, the Ecosystem Standards for State-owned agricultural and Grazing Lands and, the resource management plans developed for permit ranges located in the Loomis NRCA.

The proposal also incorporates modifications to the DNR's 1996 Lynx Habitat Management Plan cited in the USFWS lynx take avoidance letter (Martin, April 26, 2002) and the 2002 Modified Lynx Habitat Plan and Mitigated DNS issued May 8, 2002.

In addition, this proposal is designed to be used in conjunction with the Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan, Permit Range Management Plans, Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan, Chopaka NAP Management Plan and the Federal Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The Loomis NRCA is part of the Loomis State Forest located west of Tonasket in Okanogan County, Washington. The north block is located in Township 40 North, Range 24 East, W.M. The south block is located in Townships 37 & 38 North, Ranges 23 & 24 East, W.M. See attached map.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The proposal covers a large area (approx. 24,600 acres), which contains cliffs and talus slopes steeper than 60%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

In general terms, soils within the NRCA are typically deep to very shallow, mostly forest soils and rock outcrop on mountainous uplands. Soil mapping units consist of various specific soil phases within a variety of soil series. In some cases, multiple soil series characterize a given area. More developed soils occur on the flatter benches and terraces. These soils have formed in a mantle of volcanic ash and wind-blown silt (loess), overlying glacial deposits that overlie fresh to moderately decomposed granitic bedrock.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

The area is considered generally stable with isolated areas of instability. Areas of instability will be addressed during an environmental review process for specific operational proposals.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

This is a management plan and contains no specific recommendations for filling or grading. However, included in the proposal, some movement of soil may be necessary to maintain or re-route trails, or to abandon roads.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is not anticipated based on the management actions outlined within the proposal. Issues related to erosion from trail clearing, construction, and road abandonment are expected to be minimal and measures to mitigate any erosion will be part of the site specific proposal (i.e. water control measures, surface hardening, revegetation).

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

0%

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Erosion control materials (hay bales, silt fence, etc.) will be used as necessary for project-specific activities.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Emissions from snowmobiles and authorized vehicles will continue as a result of the proposal and are expected to be minimal. Snowmobile use is permitted based on the settlement agreement drawn up for the site at the time it was transferred from trust status to NRCA status.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Very few sources of emissions or odor (forest management activities and natural events such as fire located on adjacent lands) may affect the proposed NRCA.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
Anticipated emissions are minimal.

3. Water**a. Surface:**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The site includes wetlands, year around streams and seasonal streams. Below is an incomplete inventory of the surface water bodies located in the management plan area. Many of these streams are only segments or the headwaters exist on the proposal area:

North Block:

The following creeks flow into the North Fork of the Toats Coulee Creek:

Deer Park Creek
Little Horseshoe Creek
Snowshoe Creek
Olallie Creek
Swamp Creek
Disappointment Creek
Corduoy Creek

One un-named creek flows north into Canada

South Block

Headwaters of South Fork Toats Coulee Creek
Pay Master Creek (flows into South Fork Toats Coulee Creek)
Sinlahekin Creek
Lone Frank Creek (flows into Sinlahekin Creek)
Timothy Creek (flows into Sinlahekin Creek)

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

This is a management plan proposal includes the maintenance of trails with water crossings and some road maintenance and abandonment. Site-specific project actions that require SEPA environmental review will address work in, over, and adjacent surface water during specific proposals. These proposals will include the protection of vegetation.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

This management plan proposal does not require filling or removing fill material from any water bodies.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This management plan proposal does not require surface water withdrawals or diversions. In some cases during fires or road maintenance and abandonment some water may be used to reduce impacts to the environment

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Please refer to A.12 for information on the location of this non-project proposal. No maps are known to exist which delineate a 100-year floodplain within the site.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

This is a management plan proposal. There are no anticipated projects that will require discharge of waste materials.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This is a management plan proposal. There are no anticipated projects that will require ground water withdrawals or discharge.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

This is a management plan proposal. The management plan allows the continued historic use of grazing and camping on these lands. These uses are likely to contribute some discharge. Specific numbers are likely to change with uses and available forage.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

This is a management plan proposal. There are no anticipated projects that would significantly impact the natural levels of run-off from rain and snow.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

This is a management plan proposal. There are no anticipated changes from current levels. Minimal amounts of waste from cattle and people using the site for primitive camping could be washed into surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

This is a management plan proposal. Some maintenance roads, trails, and trail relocation will have structures to control water to prevent or reduce erosion and impacts to public resources. Anticipated impacts are minimal.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

☒ shrubs

☒ grass

☐ pasture

☐ crop or grain

☒ wet soil plants: sedges, skunk cabbage, other

☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

☐ Other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

This is a management plan proposal. Grazing is permitted and will result in the digestion of vegetation. There are no anticipated projects at this time that would remove or alter vegetation except trail maintenance and road abandonment. Vegetation may be removed for trail maintenance or to re-route a trail in which case, the old trail segment will be allowed to revegetate. Any disturbance to vegetation would be done for the sake of minimizing impacts to the site overall.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Botrychium paradoxum (Two-spiked moonwort) – state threatened. It is located on the site and nearby within the Chopaka Natural Area Preserve.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

All measures will be taken to preserve or enhance the native vegetation of the site. Grazing practices will be reviewed during Coordinated Resource Meetings and managed according to Coordinated Resource Management Plans which incorporate HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards.

Additional protection measures include:

Inventory and monitor the site for white pine blister rust,
Research options and opportunities to maintain the role of fire in the ecosystem,
Inventory and map aspen stands and maintain them at the current approximate acreage,
Avoid trail development in alpine areas,
Monitor weed populations and if necessary develop and implement a weed control plan and,
Extent of trail system will not be increased.

Restoration guidelines are as follows:

Only native plant species will be used for revegetation. Exceptions may occur if a non-native species is determined to be critical for success and is not expected to persist.

When possible, plants and seeds from adjacent sites will be used.

Plant Species selected should mimic natural plant communities and associations.

When purchasing "native" species, find a local source. Origin of stock should be regional and the same variety.

No use of invasive native species likely to negatively impact adjacent vegetation.

No "native species" not native to the site.

Soil should be from the site, if soil is imported, it is critical that it is sterilized to minimize the potential for weed species import.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: northern goshawk, great gray owl, boreal owl, spruce grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, boreal chickadee, three-toed woodpecker, black-backed woodpecker and northern bog lemming.

mammals deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: canada lynx, cougar, moose, squirrels, California Bighorn sheep

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Butterflies astarte fritillary, alpine checkered skipper, lustrous copper, Manitoba skipper

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Gray Wolf

Wolverine

Canada Lynx

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, big horn sheep, mule deer, neo-tropical birds.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

This is a management plan proposal. One of the goals of the proposal is to protect examples of habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive animals. Snowmobile use will be maintained at historic levels to protect Canada lynx habitat, distribution and posting of safety procedures for avoiding contact with grizzly bear, temporary closure of trails may occur to protect gray wolf and wolverine den or rendezvous sites.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

This proposal has no energy needs.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No, this proposal would not affect solar energy.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

No impacts to energy are anticipated.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There are no environmental health hazards associated with this proposal.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No emergency services will be required.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

No measures are proposed to reduce environmental health hazards.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

There are no noises in the affected geographic areas that would affect this proposal.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hour's noise would come from the site.

Snowmobile use is permitted under this proposal, thus noise will be created by snowmobiles in the winter months.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

No measures are proposed to reduce or control noise impacts.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The site is currently a Natural Resources Conservation Area and is used for conservation of natural resources, outdoor recreation and cattle grazing. Adjacent properties are managed as USFS wilderness and multiple use lands, Canada parks, BLM public lands, WADNR state trust lands and a natural area preserve.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

The site has a long history of livestock grazing. Five permit ranges overlap with the site and have Resource Management Plans associated with them.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Several cabin remnants built by users exist in various state of repair and are used primarily as landmarks and safety shelters for sudden extreme weather.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structure will be demolished as part of this proposal.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not applicable.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not applicable.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The Lynx Management Plan, Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan overlap with the site and populations of rare and threatened plants, insects, and animals may exist. The plan specifically provides guidelines for maintaining known habitat either directly or through reference. Other environmentally sensitive areas, where they exist, will be identified and assessed at the time of site-specific project actions guided by this plan.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The Loomis NRCA Management Plan provides guidelines to maintain or enhance habitat through natural process and in some cases may require forest management. Public use is part of the NRCA act and legal settlements. Other land uses compatibility is guided by other guidelines and/or policies. See answer to question A.8. for additional information.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units would be provided with this proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units would be eliminated.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Information signs (approximately 6-8 feet tall) and accompanying trailhead facilities are the tallest proposed structures. A specific height is not required however they should be designed within pedestrian scale and situated to compliment and blend with the natural setting.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Information signs will be designed to blend with the natural setting and should not alter or obstruct views.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

This proposal stipulates that structures will be designated and situated to compliment and blend with natural setting.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Equestrian, snowmobile, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, and some scenic driving on Thunder Mountain road and Lone Frank Road.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

ATV use occurs but is not a permitted use. Enforcement will continue along with increased emphasis to end this use within the site except on the Thunder mountain road and Lone Frank road.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Work with user groups to honor the delineated trail system and trail standards.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Nothing exists on or next to the site that is proposed for any preservation registers.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Old cabin sites are located throughout the Loomis NRCA from a century of cattle and sheep grazing along with trapping. Some structures have degenerated into a pile of weathered logs; other still provide limited shelter from the elements.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Other than education through staff contact, signage, and enforcement specific measures to control impacts are not recommended in the management plan.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.
Roads built and maintained by the Department of Natural Resources serve the site. Ninemile and Fourteen-mile roads serve the north block; both are unpaved forest roads. The south block is served primarily by Thunder Mountain Road and to a lesser extent, Lone Frank Road. Both of these roads are unsigned, rough and are not suited for low-clearance or two-wheel drive vehicles.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
No the site is not served by public transit.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
The management plan proposal includes a recommendation for a trail and trailhead analysis and parking areas may be improved depending on the results of the analysis.
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
No new roads or streets or improvements are part of this proposal.
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
The proposal should have a minimal effect on the number of vehicle trips to the site.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
No measures are proposed.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
The proposal would not increase the need for public services.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
There are no proposed measures.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
No utilities on the site.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
No utilities are proposed or will be needed for this proposal.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: *P. Brooke Derr*

Date Submitted: *1/15/03*

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Implementation of the proposal would not result in a change to any of the resources listed. Site-specific project proposals would be designed to meet the guidance of this Loomis NRCA management plan. The kinds and impacts of site-specific project proposals are not known at this time and further analysis will be done for specific proposed actions requiring SEPA.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

This non-project action would provide guidelines and suggested site-specific projects in the future within the affected geographic area in order to better create, maintain, and/or protect quality and function of the ecosystem and recreational experience for the users. The Loomis NRCA management plan would not result in any increases of the above listed hazardous substances.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The purpose of this proposal is to protect, enhance or restore natural elements of systems. The proposed guidelines and suggested specific actions would allow natural process to occur when possible while protecting the public resources and adjacent ownerships. Site-specific project proposals will continue to be implemented over the affected geographic area and the applicant will assess the affects of those site-specific proposals at the time of the proposal. This non-project proposal provides guidance on how vegetative cover might be manipulated by recreation, recreation maintenance, ecological studies and fire suppression. Grazing is a permitted use under the proposal and is covered in general terms. More specific guidelines for grazing practices are covered directly under range-specific Resource Management Plans.

Indicators used to measure the effect to plants, animals, and fish life will be that populations of the essential elements identified in the plan (and found in future inventories) are found to be in their normal historic range of variability in the geographic area. Other indicators include: the degree of connectivity with favorable habitat, impact of access, need and type of disturbance or lack of disturbance, status of population within the State of Washington and the world.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

The proposed Management Plan has specific guidance that protection and conservation of plants, animals, fish, and insects on the Loomis NRCA are required according to the NRCA Act. Generally the guidance in the plan has considered a variety of disturbance and their function in the ecosystem. Letting the plants, animals, fish, and insects cycle through their historic range of populations variability in many instance require some level of disturbance. Resulting impacts of the disturbance may require the protection of public resources and doing restoration. To protect these public resources, plants, animals, fish, or insects will be assessed as guided in the management plan. In most instances site specific actions will be proposed or implemented to meet the guidelines of this management plan or other habitat requirements either by law, legal settlement, or landscape function.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

This is a management plan that gives guidance for managing the Loomis NRCA. No specific guidance is given to deplete energy or the natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

The Loomis NRCA will be managed to protect the natural features identified for conservation and provide opportunities for people to enjoy the natural character of the site. The NRCA will also be managed to protect wildlife habitat and travel corridors, scenic views and the generally undeveloped character of the site. Removal or alteration of vegetation, soil, rock, except as part of weed control, habitat restoration projects, or tribal use, is not allowed. Management objectives are focused on minimizing impacts to sensitive and rare features and ecosystems.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Through the NRCA act and this management plan, DNR recognizes the importance of environmentally sensitive and special lands. This proposal would not change any land use or designation. Management of the Loomis NRCA would continue with the guidelines of this plan to achieve the desired results as guided by the NRCA act, legal settlements, and policies of the DNR and specific issues that arose during scoping and addressed as part of the management plan writing process.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Please refer to question 2 in the "Supplemental Sheet". Implementing this NRCA management plan would achieve the requirements to protect the natural features identified for conservation and provide opportunities for people to enjoy the natural character of the site. The NRCA will also be managed to protect wildlife habitat and travel corridors, scenic views and the generally undeveloped character of the site. Removal or alteration of vegetation, soil, rock, except as part of weed control, habitat restoration projects, or tribal use, is not allowed. Management objectives are focused on minimizing impacts to sensitive and rare features and ecosystems.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

This proposed management plan would not change any land or shoreline use. This plan does identify activities in the Loomis NRCA that will be managed according to the NRCA act, legal settlements, HB 1309 and the Endangered Species Act. No conflicts are anticipated with existing plans (Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan, Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, Chopaka NAP Management Plan, Permit Range Resource Management Plans, or the Loomis Forest Landscape Plan).

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:
Not necessary.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

This proposed plan would have minimal increases in demand on existing transportation, or public services or utilities. Any new transportation routes would be assessed to determine the amount of human related disturbance that might or could occur as a result of site-specific projects

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:
Not necessary.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

- a. The proposal is intended to support and concur with all local, state and federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. The proposal was developed to fulfill the requirements outlined in RCW 79.71 (NRCA Act), legal settlements, and other applicable requirements from questions 7 and 8 in the "Environmental Checklist".

Figure 1. Loomis NRCA and Vicinity

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